



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EL PASO MAN CHARGED WITH MURDERING HIS WIFE ON FORT BLISS

U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that 65-year-old Ben Rogers Frakes, Jr., was indicted by a federal grand jury this afternoon charged with murdering his wife.

Frakes is charged with one count of 1st degree murder and one count of using a firearm in commission of a crime of violence. The indictment alleges that on July 7, 2003, Frakes willfully, deliberately, maliciously and with premeditation and malice aforethought shot and killed his wife with a Smith and Wesson 9mm semi-automatic pistol. The incident occurred at their residence on Fort Bliss property.

Frakes remains in custody. Upon conviction, he faces life in Federal prison or the death penalty.

This case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Defense Criminal Investigations Division. Assistant United States Attorney William F. Lewis, Jr., is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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